

WATER ALLOCATION PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT WATER RIGHTS SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING

MINUTES OF MEETING

5/6/03

Members Present:

John Garry
Dale Thompson
Brian Bishop
Annette Jacques
Jon Schock

WRB Staff Present

Connie McGreavy
Kathy Crawley

Guests

Bill Stamp, III

Members Absent:

Kendra Beaver
Al Bettencourt
Fred Cosby
Christopher D'Ovidio
Mary Ellen McCabe
Rebecca Partington
Ken Payne
Paul Ryan
Gregory Schultz
John Spirito
Katherine Wallace

I. CALL TO ORDER:

With a quorum present, Mr. Dale Thompson called the meeting to order at 2:10 PM.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Mr. Thompson deferred approval of the April minutes due to late distribution.

III. ITEMS FOR ACTION:

None.

IV. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION:

A) Summer Leadership and Schedule

Mr. Thompson explained that Mr. John Garry would lead the Water Rights Committee on an interim basis. Mr. Thompson will be taking the CA bar exam and will be back in September.

B) Identification of Tasks and Timeline for Subcommittee on Drought Rights and Regulatory Structure, using the Regulated Riparian Model Code and Alternatives to the Regulated Riparian Model Code (B.B. group lead)

Discussion of Drought Group's work assignments for the summer:

- Where's the authority to enforce the right now?
- A tiered approach to the allocation of the water in times of drought
- There are already existing drought management plans at the local level
- What legal authority exists for supporting the imposition of regulatory authority in times of drought
- When should the state get involved in this problem?

C) Identification of Tasks and Timeline for Subcommittee on Agricultural Water Rights (A.B. group lead)

Discussion of Agriculture Group's tasking regarding the intent of RIGL 46.15-7:

- Setting forth tasks for the group to concentrate its efforts upon
- Several members provided input regarding the questions to be answered

D) Identification of Tasks and Timeline for Subcommittee on Groundwater Rights (A.J. group lead)

Discussion of who has the right to groundwater and/or surface water:

- Riparian rights, private wells, etc
- Who has the right to the waters/
- Reviewed existing documents about water rights in RI
- What are we doing to address drought situations?

E) Identification of Tasks and Timeline for Subcommittee on Takings

Mr. Thompson offered to study this issue independently.

V. OTHER BUSINESS

A) Updating the Regulatory Authority Diagrams

This item will be taken up at the next meeting which was set for Wednesday, June 4th, @ 2:00 P.M.

V. ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

John Garry
RI Dept. of the Attorney General

**Note: For more information on Water Allocation, visit: <http://www.seagrant.gso.uri.edu/scc/wrb/index.html>.*